

International Congress. Delegates will be present from Great Britain, Canada, and Federated Australia, besides those in the United States, and we may hope that in addition to the business meetings of the Grand Council others of a less formal nature will be held, so that its objects may be brought before the members of the Congress, and an opportunity afforded for discussing and arousing interest in its future work.

In your "dear land of Liberty" the environment will be eminently sympathetic and encouraging to any phase of the international movement. Au revoir.

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK.

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## A HISTORY OF THE BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL TRAINING-SCHOOL FOR NURSES \*

By LOIS MASTIN DIEHL

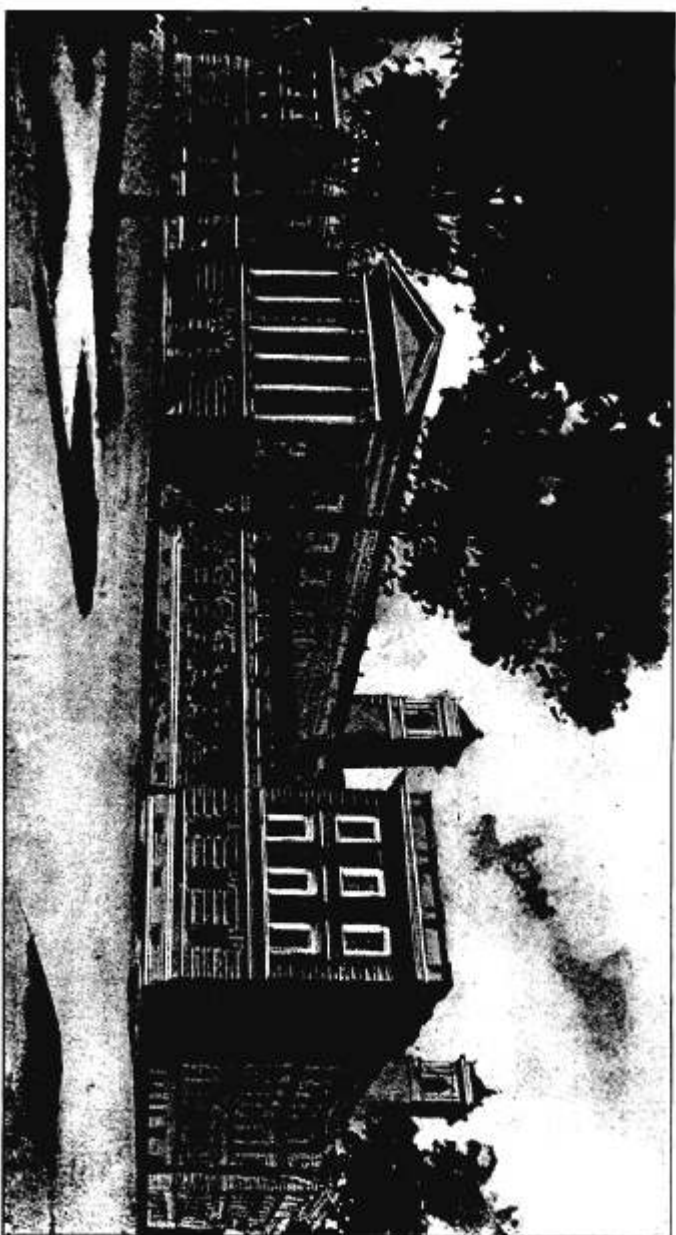
IN giving the history of the Buffalo General Hospital Training-School for Nurses it seems necessary to refer also to some points in the history of the hospital itself, our Training-School not being an independent institution, as are some other schools.

About 1849 the first hospital of Buffalo—that of the Sisters of Charity—was established. The old building is still standing, having been converted into tenements.

In 1855 the need of another hospital was felt, and in December of that year the Buffalo General Hospital was organized. The work evidently progressed slowly, though surely, for it was June 24, 1858, when the building was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies and addresses by ex-President Millard Fillmore, Hon. James Putnam, Mr. Jesse Ketcham, and others.

The original hospital was what is known as the "Old Building." From December 1, 1863, to October 2, 1864, the building was used for a United States Hospital. Dr. D. W. Harrington was one of the soldier patients, afterwards studying medicine. During its use by the United States an outbreak of hospital gangrene occurred which was attended with great fatality. The patients were kept in tents on the grounds when the weather permitted. Dr. John M. Brown, of Westfield, then house physician, relates that, making his rounds through the tents one morning, he found a well-meaning but mistaken lady visitor distributing from her carriage to the patients green cucumbers and other inappropriate delicacies.

\* Read before the Alumnae Association January 31, 1901.



BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL, RIGHT DIVISION COMPLETED

The first detached building was a temporary contagious building put up in 1876 and followed by a permanent one in 1877, known as the "Pavilion." It occupied the site of the present Nurses' Home, and consisted of two large rooms with a central hall and small diet-room. The large rooms, or wards, could accommodate six patients each. A nurses' room opened from the east ward.

By 1877 the success of the Nurses' Training-Schools established in 1873 at Bellevue, New Haven, and the Massachusetts General was known and much dissatisfaction was felt with the old methods of nursing. Mrs. John B. Skinner, president of the Ladies' Hospital Association, and Mrs. Thomas F. Rochester, vice-president of the same and wife of an eminent physician, determined to start a new order of things. Without consulting the medical staff or trustees, they engaged Miss Sarah Grey, a graduate of Bellevue, as head nurse for one year. Five pupil nurses were engaged, and so began the first training-school for nurses west of New York City.

The rules of the school were drawn up by Mrs. Skinner and Mrs. Rochester on the plan of those of the New Haven school.

The warden at this time was Mr. J. Y. Bicknall, and the resident physician—there was but one—Dr. Charles G. Stockton, with a medical student as assistant. The daily average of patients during the year was fifty, with a maximum of seventy-one and minimum of thirty. This, though a small number as it seems now, certainly called for hard work from one resident physician and five nurses. The nurses' sleeping-rooms were of necessity located in the basement.

Miss Grey came with the understanding that she was to perform the duties of head nurse only, and declined to give other than practical instruction in the work of nursing. She left at the completion of her year. Her ex-pupil, Mrs. Elizabeth Teal Auld, speaks highly of her ability as a nurse.

Miss Mary Scott (known as Sister Mary, after the English custom), a graduate of Dr. Mack's Training-School at St. Catherines, Ontario, followed Miss Grey November 1, 1878. The original intention was to make nurses' training-schools self-supporting by requiring each pupil nurse to do six months' outside nursing during her second year. The first "outside nursing" in 1878 earned thirty-four dollars.

The "Buffalo General Hospital Report" for 1879 gives the instruction imparted to the nurses as follows: "'The New Haven Hand-Book of Nursing' is used as a text-book, practical lectures are given by the superintendent of nurses, class instruction in Huxley and Yeoman's 'Physiology and Hygiene' by the resident physician, and twenty lectures by the visiting staff."

The medical lectures were arranged by Dr. F. W. Abbott at the petition of the Ladies' Hospital Association, who up to that date had assumed the organization and management of the school. With the arranging for lectures by the staff, a Training-School Committee of the staff was formed of which Dr. F. W. Abbott was permanent chairman. With the exception of two years from July, 1889, to July, 1891, the position was held by Dr. Abbott continuously until his withdrawal in July, 1897. Miss Elizabeth Teal received the first diploma of the school (an engrossed one) on the completion of her two-years' course in 1879.

In the light of our present knowledge I wish to quote an extract from the "Buffalo General Hospital Report" of 1879: "While we have had our quota of patients in the medical and surgical wards, there have been only occasional cases of obstetrics, but during the past few months the number has so increased that we have been obliged to use the Pavilion, a detached wooden building originally intended for contagious diseases. This has answered our purpose tolerably well, but at the same time depriving us of its use for cases which of necessity should be isolated."

1880 was a red-letter year of the Buffalo General Hospital. The administration building, familiarly known as the "New Building," and under construction in 1879 and 1880, was opened October 1, 1880. This supplied the additional private rooms and obstetric ward so much needed, and the use of a part of the third floor private rooms, reserved for the warden's family and nurses, permitted an increase in the Training-School, which had been limited for lack of accommodations. The school at this time had thirteen pupils. Sister Mary, after two-years' charge of the school, was succeeded by Miss Cornelia Seeley, of the Boston City and Woman's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

Miss Seeley was a woman with ability and ideas, and the school was by her placed on a firm basis and many improvements were introduced. Among these was the "Nurses' Record Book," originated by Miss Seeley, in which the work and record of each pupil was kept. The Conference Committee was also her idea and was formed in 1880. It consisted of an Advisory Committee to confer with the superintendent of nurses, composed of the president of the Ladies' Hospital Association, the president of the Board of Trustees, and the chairman of the Training-School Committee of the medical staff (Dr. Abbott) as permanent secretary.

In 1881 the resident physician was allowed an assistant, and a diet kitchen was started to give the nurses experience in sick-cookery, each nurse serving as diet nurse for a month.

In 1882 the school numbered sixteen pupils. Examinations are first mentioned in the report for that year, also the application blanks



CIRCULAR WARD, BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL

for candidates. In 1882 also the first graduating exercises were held. In 1883 Dr. Mynter and Dr. Park were appointed surgeons on the staff, and with their coming antiseptic surgery was introduced into the General Hospital. The number of nurses had now reached twenty, again the limit of accommodations. A library for nurses was started, donations of books being made by the staff, and a monthly assessment of ten cents was levied among the nurses for the purchase of new books. In March, 1883, the first death occurred in the Training-School, Miss Emma Kennedy, of the Class of '84, who had been caring for a family with diphtheria, contracted the disease and died after an illness of five days.

In 1884 Mayor Jonathan Scoville made a gift of two thousand dollars for the use of the hospital. It was decided to use it to open a ward for children. After-contributions to the object were so liberal that only a small portion of Mayor Scoville's gift was used. The obstetric ward was converted into a ward for children, now the nurses' dining-room. The remaining money, with an additional gift of three hundred dollars from Mayor Scoville, was used to build a maternity cottage at the northwest corner of the grounds, familiarly known as the "Nursery" and later as "Scoville Cottage."

The children's ward was opened May 13, 1884. August 1, 1884, Miss Seeley resigned to take charge of the City Hospital at Newport, Rhode Island. Her term as superintendent has been the longest in the history of the school, covering about four years. Miss Elizabeth Johnson, a graduate of the New York Hospital, took her place in September, 1884. Mrs. Skinner, one of the founders of the Training-School, died during this year.

Gates Cottage, the donation of Mrs. George B. Gates, was built during the summer of 1885, being opened in the fall. Miss Mary Taylor, of the Class of '85, had the honor of being the first district nurse in Buffalo, being employed soon after her graduation by the First Presbyterian Church for work among the poor. At the end of her year as superintendent Miss Johnson resigned to take up the study of medicine at the University of Buffalo. She was followed as superintendent by her class-mate, Miss Mary K. Howell, who took charge of the school October 1, 1885.

The second death in the school took place in that fall. Miss Jean Rutherford, Class of '86, died of typhoid fever at the end of her first year in school.

In 1886 the Fitch Accident Hospital was opened, and for some time was furnished with supplies and nurses by the General Hospital.

The tents which had been used in hot weather for the men's surgical ward were abandoned after the autumn of 1886. They were placed on

the grounds east of the buildings and had been of much benefit to the patients, who were left in them as late in the season as possible. The fall of 1886 was raw and wet, and a most promising amputation patient developed a fatal pneumonia. This was the direct cause of abandoning the system.

After seventeen months as superintendent of nurses Miss M. K. Howell resigned, May 1, 1887, to marry. Miss M. E. Francis, of the Class of '87, acted as temporary superintendent, and on graduating received the appointment.

In 1888 new rules and regulations were drawn up. Miss Lois M. Masten, Class of '87, was appointed superintendent to succeed Miss Francis, who resigned July 23. Miss Susan C. Long, Class of '85, was appointed first night superintendent.

Kimberly Cottage (contagious) was built during this year as a memorial cottage by the daughters of John C. Kimberly (the Misses Kimberly and Mrs. Wm. H. Walker).

The porte-cochère and solarium for patients was added to the front of the hospital in 1889 through the efforts of Miss Margaret Moore, a former patient. In the fall of this year two junior nurses, Class of '91, were stricken with typhoid fever. Miss Nettie Perry died in November and Miss Anna Dawson's health was so impaired by it that she was obliged to resign.

The small amount of outside nursing done by the school was a constant source of anxiety to the management, and the superintendent of nurses was continually urged to increase it. This seemed to be an impossibility, as the demands of hospital work continued to outstrip the growth of the school. It was thought that a nurses' home, by allowing a larger school, might solve the difficulty, and the subject began to be agitated.

About January 1, 1890, the position of warden became vacant, and was filled temporarily by Miss Susan C. Long, whose position of night superintendent was transferred to Miss Jeanette Oliver, of the Class of '88.

Mrs. Thomas F. Rochester, who with Mrs. Skinner had organized the school, died January 6, 1890. Through the bounty of Mrs. George B. Gates a nurses' home was built and furnished during the year.

In the spring of 1891 ex-Mayor Scoville died, leaving twenty-five thousand dollars for the benefit of the Training-School. After having had charge of the Training-School for three years, Miss Masten resigned July 1, 1891, and was followed by Miss Clara M. Carter, of the Class of '89. During this year the average number of patients was one hundred and sixteen, of pupil nurses about thirty.

During the year 1892 an outside teacher was employed to give the nurses instruction in sick-cookery. On June 26 a brass tablet was placed in the nurses' home by the pupils in honor of Mrs. Gates. Miss Carter resigned at the end of her year to take up church work. Miss Lucetta J. Gross, of the Boston City Hospital, succeeded her. During this year the first graduate head nurses were employed. Miss Gross remained two years and resigned in 1894. She was succeeded by Miss Kate I. Kennedy, of the Class of '93. Miss Lillian Brewster, a pupil nurse, died of heart trouble while at home on her vacation.

The new wing of the hospital was begun August 31, 1895. An experienced masseuse was employed to instruct the nurses in massage during 1895.

In the spring of 1897 Miss Kennedy resigned and Miss Ellen Van A. Denike, superintendent, with Miss Ellen J. Lingren, assistant superintendent, both of the New York Hospital, were engaged. Under Miss Denike's superintendency the course was lengthened to three years and the allowance was reduced. The outside nursing had become practically a dead letter, nurses, instead, being employed on special duty in the hospital.

The new wing was completed in 1899 and the woman's ward in the old building converted into a dormitory for nurses, the opposite ward undergoing a similar change for the maids.

Miss Denike and Miss Lingren resigned in the fall of 1899 and were followed by Mrs. Amy C. Goodwyn, of the Garfield Memorial Hospital, Washington, D. C. In place of an assistant superintendent a larger number of graduates were employed.

The hospital report of 1899 gives the daily average of patients as one hundred and forty-three, nurses and probationers forty-seven, graduate nurses four.

In looking back to the early history of the school one cannot but be surprised at the great results achieved from such small beginnings.

In the early part of 1900 the benefactor of the school, Mrs. Gates, passed to her reward.

The total number of graduates of the school on July 1, 1900, was two hundred and thirty-one. This did not include two graduates dropped from the rolls for cause.

Nine of the graduates have chosen other occupations, as follows: three physicians, one dentist, one deaconess, one stenographer, two manicurists, and one lodging-house keeper.

Sixty-four have married (twenty-seven per cent. of the total number of graduates), twelve have died, ninety-three have left Buffalo, and one hundred and twenty-six remain in the city.